

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-14 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 DOE-11  
SOE-02 /091 W

-----093008 181145Z /10/43

O R 171732Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5987  
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION USNATO

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 03092

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADDING AMEMBASSY LONDON AS INFO ADDEE)

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, BQG  
SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS ALLIED RESERVATIONS ON NATIONAL-  
STIFTUNG

REF: (A) BONN 03012; (B) USBERLIN 346 AND PREVIOUS

1. FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED IN FEBRUARY 17 EDITION OF BONN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER "GENERAL-ANZEIGER".

BEGIN TEXT: RESERVATIONS ABOUT NATIONAL FOUNDATION  
"INTERIM SOLUTION" ALSO MEETS WITH OPPOSITION

A. THE THREE WESTERN POWERS HAVE FOR THE FIRST TIME  
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VOICED FORMAL POLITICAL RESERVATIONS IN THE BONN QUADRIPARTITE WORKING GROUP ABOUT THE PROJECT OF SETTING UP A "GERMAN NATIONAL FOUNDATION" IN BERLIN. THEY ALSO EXPRESSLY ADVISED AGAINST THE PLAN OF TRANSFERRING THE TASKS OF THIS FOUNDATION TO THE "PRUSSIAN ART TREASURES FOUNDATION" WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A SO-CALLED "INTERIM SOLUTION". THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE THREE

WESTERN POWERS IN THE BONN GROUP RESERVED THEIR FINAL COMMENT UNTIL AND UNLESS THE GERMAN AUTHORITIES CONCERNED MAKE A DECISION TO PROCEED WITH THIS PLAN. HOWEVER, AS A RESULT OF A CONFERENCE ON FEBRUARY 16 BETWEEN CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND THE FDP MINISTERS GENSCHER AND MAIHOFFER, WORK ON THIS PROJECT IS TO CONTINUE FOR THE TIME BEING.

B. THE CHANCELLOR YIELDED TO THE URGING OF THE TWO FDP POLITICIANS EVEN THOUGH HE IS SAID TO BE IMPRESSED BY THE ALLIED RESERVATIONS AND HIMSELF FEARS ADVERSE REPERCUSSIONS ON GERMAN-SOVIET RELATIONS AND ON THE INNER-GERMAN PROCESS OF NORMALIZATION. GENSCHER AND MAIHOFFER RECOMMENDED THAT THE POSSIBILITIES OF SUCH AN "INTERIM SOLUTION" SHOULD FIRST BE FULLY EXPLOITED AND THAT THE FINAL WORD OF THE THREE WESTERN ALLIES SHOULD THEN BE HEARD. IT WOULD SEEM THAT THEIR RECOMMENDATION WAS ALSO INFLUENCED BY DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS SINCE VIOLENT ATTACKS OF THE OPPOSITION AND CDU-GOVERNED LAENDER WOULD HAVE TO BE EXPECTED IN THE EVENT OF A COMPLETE FAILURE OF THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION PROJECT. CDU CHAIRMAN KOHL LAST YEAR EVEN ESTABLISHED A LINKAGE BETWEEN THE OPPOSITION'S READINESS TO AGREE TO ALL-PARTY COOPERATION ON THE BERLIN QUESTION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FOUNDATION, A SMALL AGENCY WITH A MAXIMUM OF TWENTY EMPLOYEES, IN BERLIN.

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C. THE WESTERN POWERS EXPRESSLY STATED THAT THEY HAVE NO LEGAL RESERVATIONS BASED ON THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT. THEY POINTED OUT, THOUGH, THAT IN BERLIN THE MATTER OF PRIORITIES HAD TO BE CONSIDERED AS WELL. THE QUESTION OF BERLIN'S BELONGING TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNI-

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DOE-11 /091 W

-----085305 180258Z /61/43

O R 171732Z FEB 78 ZEL  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5988  
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADDING AMEMBASSY LONDON AS INFO ADDEE)

TY AND OF SENDING BERLIN DEPUTIES TO THE DIRECTLY-ELECTED EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WAS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE SETTING UP OF A CULTURAL FOUNDATION WHOSE VERY FUNCTIONS WERE NOT EVEN CLEAR YET.

D. ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE IS A GROWING NEED FOR A CLARIFICATION OF THE FOUNDATION PROJECT, AS THERE HAS ACCUMULATED IN THE FEDERAL BUDGET SINCE 1976 THE AMOUNT OF DM 37.5 MILLION WHICH, ACCORDING TO SOME SPONSORS, SUPPLEMENTED BY LAENDER CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE SAME AMOUNT, IS TO BE SPENT FOR A "NATIONAL CULTURAL REPRESENTATION", AND ACCORDING TO A DIFFERENT CONCEPT, FOR THE PROMOTION OF ARTISTIC PROJECTS AND THE PURCHASE OF WORKS OF ART. THUS FAR, A COMPROMISE SUGGESTED BY THE CHANCELLOR, THAT IS, TO ATTACH THE OFFICE OF THE FOUNDATION TO THE FEDERAL PRESIDENT'S  
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OFFICE AND TO ENTRUST THE FEDERAL PRESIDENT WITH ITS CHAIRMANSHIP, WAS NOT ACCEPTED, AS SCHEEL INSISTS ON A FINAL CLARIFICATION OF THE MATTER AND IS NOT INCLINED TO MAKE HIMSELF AVAILABLE FOR AN "INTERIM SOLUTION". THERE ARE VOICES TOO WHICH DEEM IT A QUESTIONABLE UNDERTAKING TO ENCUMBER THE "PRUSSIAN CULTURAL TREASURES FOUNDATION", WHICH HAS BEEN OPERATING FOR MANY YEARS WITHOUT FRICTION, WITH THE NATIONAL FOUNDATION PROJECT. END TEXT.

2. EMBASSY COMMENTS FOLLOW SEPTTEL.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
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